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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

C 207

29 April 1972

State Department review completed

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Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A021800020002-6

Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A021800020002-6

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MEXICO: President Echeverria expresses concern
over trends in Latin America. (Page 5)

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MEXICO: President Echeverria, viewing the political and social ferment in Latin America as a serious threat to his own country, is urging a new US commitment to economic development for the countries of the hemisphere.

As a start, Echeverria, in a conversation with the US ambassador, asked that the US endorse the principles he set forth in his recent speech at the UNCTAD meeting in Chile. While he regards his compendium of economic rights and duties as only a preliminary charter for the developing nations, he feels that it offers a possible rallying point. Echeverria believes that some action must be taken to reverse the present drift toward violent upheaval and that it is essential for the US to remain intimately involved with the affairs of the hemisphere.

Echeverria clearly was confused and concerned by what he saw in Chile and alarmed by everything he heard and was told about conditions in other countries, especially Argentina, during his trip to Santiago. These observations seem to sharpen his concern over the weakening of Mexico's own political system and his new-found sense of urgency about the population explosion in Mexico. Believing that problems at home and in neighboring countries can no longer be ignored, he is groping for some method by which Mexico, working together with the United States, can alleviate them.

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